

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A cage having a plurality of cutouts for receiving rolling bodies of a joint, wherein the cage comprises a quenched and tempered steel and the entire cage has a substantially uniform ductility ~~throughout~~ over its cross section without surface hardening.

2-12. (Cancelled)

13. (New) The cage according to claim 1, wherein the cage has a hardness in a range from 500 to 650 HV.

14. (New) The cage according to claim 1, wherein the cage comprises a steel with a carbon content in a range from 0.3% to 0.5%.

15. (New) The cage according to claim 1, wherein the cage comprises a steel with at least boron as alloying element.

16. (New) A cage having a plurality of cutouts for receiving rolling bodies of a joint, wherein the cage comprises a quenched and tempered steel and the entire cage has a substantially uniform ductility over any cross section through the cage whereby the deviation of the hardness is less than 10% and the hardness is less than or equal to 650 HV.

17. (New) The cage according to claim 16, wherein the cage has a hardness in a range from 500 to 650 HV.

18. (New) The cage according to claim 16, wherein the cage comprises a steel with a carbon content in a range from 0.3% to 0.5%.

19. (New) The cage according to claim 16, wherein the cage comprises a steel with at least boron as alloying element.

20. (New) A process for producing a cage having a plurality of cutouts for receiving rolling bodies of a joint, comprising the following steps:

forming a closed base body;
cutting out a plurality of cutouts;
fully hardening the cage so that a martensitic microstructure is provided; and
tempering the cage.

21. (New) The process according to claim 20, wherein the step of fully hardening comprises at least one of the following steps for heating the cage: inductive heating, heating by an energy beam, or heating by a continuous furnace or chamber furnace.

22. (New) The process according to claim 20, wherein the tempering of the cage results in a hardness of the cage in a range from approximately 500 to 650 HV.

23. (New) The process according to claim 20, wherein the tempering of the cage is carried out at least by immersion in a warm liquid, or passage through at least one continuous furnace or chamber furnace.

24. (New) A joint comprising an outer part, an inner part, a plurality of rolling bodies, and a cage, the cage comprising a quenched and tempered steel, the cage fully hardened and tempered and the entire cage has a substantially uniform ductility over its cross section without surface hardening.

25. (New) The joint according to claim 24, wherein the joint provides an inclination angle for a shaft of greater than 20°.

26. (New) The joint according to claim 24, wherein the joint is included in a vehicle.